



*Connecting a Community of Gardeners Through Learning*

## **April 5, 2016 General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** 6:40 pm

**Attending:** 21 Members and guests

### **1. Bylaws Review:** Michele Worden

a. The association bylaws had not been updated since 2006 and were no longer reflective of the workings of the association. The Board of Directors and several volunteers reviewed and proposed updates to the bylaws to bring them into concurrence with the association as it is today. The Board of Directors has approved the new bylaws.

b. Discussion ensued.

c. Motion to approve Bylaws revisions made and seconded. Motion carried.

d. Revised Bylaws approved.

### **2. Volunteer Project Spotlight:** Becky Johnson, MSUE Master Gardener

**Peace Ranch** is a local non-profit that serves Children, Families, and Veterans in crisis through equine therapy with rehabilitated rescue horses. Becky Johnson coordinates the volunteers that maintain Ezechieel Memorial Garden. Work bees are held every Tuesday and Friday from 1pm to 3pm in June, July and August. Another opportunity is Spring Farm Day on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Interested Master Gardeners can contact Becky by telephone: 231-276-9296 or by E-mail: ABTool@charter.net. For additional information on Peace Ranch, go to their website: [peacerranchtc.com](http://peacerranchtc.com). This project is listed on the VMS site for entry of volunteer hours.

### **3. Educational Presentation:** Chris Skellenger, Co-founder and Director of Operations

**Buckets of Rain** started in Lesotho, Africa to assist impoverished people in feeding themselves through gardening. The "Bucket" in Buckets of Rain is the basis for a unique gravity fed drip irrigation system. While still involved in the African projects, the organization has taken on the construction of community gardens in the city of Detroit. Since 2013 several abandoned city lots have been turned into gardens producing thousands of servings of vegetables for the poor and the homeless. For more information: [www.bucketsofrain.org](http://www.bucketsofrain.org)

**4. Next Meeting:** On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 at the Boardman River Nature Center MGANM will sponsor a Volunteer Project Spotlight to inform Master Gardeners of the many projects available to participate in. See the website: [www.mganm.org](http://www.mganm.org) & Facebook page for additional information.

**Adjournment:** 8:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Reich, Secretary MGANM